

Dr. Christopher Cone

I. Course Description:

Prolegomena is the 'first word.' It is an introduction to Bible study and theological method. In this course we will examine some important first principles and methods for doing Bible study. We will consider both theoretical and practical aspects, with an emphasis on involving each student in the process so that the principles we discuss will not simply be head knowledge, but rather so that the student can apply them and incorporate them in their everyday Bible reading and study. Paul tells Timothy to be diligent in his handling of the Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15) – it is work indeed that demands diligence and precision, but it is the most rewarding work we will ever do.

II. Course Objectives

1. To identify and understand the necessary prerequisites of Biblical doctrine.
2. To understand the various methods of approaching Biblical doctrine.
3. To develop a sound approach to personal Biblical exegesis.
4. To identify and understand the correlation between the central themes of the Bible.
5. To understand the doxological purpose of God.
6. To fulfill the instructional mandate of 1 Timothy 1:5.

III. Course Textbooks

Required Texts:

Prolegomena on Biblical Hermeneutics and Method, 2nd Ed., Christopher Cone, Tyndale Seminary Press, 2012, ISBN 978-1-938484-0302 (also available as ebook)

Protestant Biblical Interpretation, Bernard Ramm, Baker Book House, 3rd ed., 1980 ISBN 0801020832

Classical Evangelical Hermeneutics, Mal Couch, Kregel, 2000, ISBN 0825423678

Recommended Texts for Additional Study:

The Promises of God: A Bible Survey, Cone, Exegetica Publishing, 2005, ISBN 0976593009

A General Introduction to the Bible, Geisler & Nix, Moody Press, 1986, ISBN 0802429165

IV. Evaluation of Student Performance

1. Class Attendance – for Campus students, due to the concentrated nature of the lectures, one unexcused class absence will reduce final grade by a letter grade. A 2nd unexcused absence will result in an additional research assignment required for a passing grade. A 3rd unexcused absence will result in a failing grade. Online students must listen to the recorded lectures in their entirety and must fulfill all other format-specific requirements in order to receive a passing grade, including occasional interaction with the Advising Professor/Instructor. If the Online student is not responsive to Advising Professor/Instructor communication, the student may become inactive and receive a grade of incomplete on the course (I).
2. Reading Assignments and Accountability – All students will complete assigned reading and will summarize in one-half to one full-page three primary points from each module's reading.
3. Research Assignments – All students will write eight brief papers as prescribed in the Course Outline. All students will write two pages per paper.
4. Course Exams – There are no exams for this course.
5. Online Interaction – Online students will have three online assignments each module: (1) email reading accountability to the Advising Professor/Instructor; (2) email a brief (50-75 words) observation of a key point from that module's lecture; and (3) respond to Advising Professor/Instructor questions and observations.
6. Campus students will submit assignments as directed by the Professor.
Online Students will submit assignments directly to the Advising Professor/Instructor.
7. Scoring Rubric

Assignments	Campus	Online
Attendance or Online Participation	Pass/Fail/Reduction	25
Reading Component (Reading & Accountability)	30 (40 if no exams)	25
Research Component (Papers & Projects)	40 (60 if no exams)	25 (50 if no exams)
Exam Component (if applicable)	30 (if applicable)	25 (if applicable)
Total Points:	100	100

V. Course Outline & Assignments

Module 1 – What is the Bible and Why Study It?

1. What the Bible Claims to Be
2. What the Bible is About: A Quick Bible Survey
3. What the Bible Offers You and Me: The Importance of Bible Study

Module 2 – How to Study the Bible: Four Basic Steps

1. Observation
2. Interpretation
3. Correlation
4. Application

Reading Assignment and Accountability: Prolegomena, 257-266 / Identify and summarize 3 main points

Module 3 – Working With Bible Study Tools: Concordances, Dictionaries, Commentaries, Maps, etc.

Reading Assignment and Accountability: Protestant Biblical Interpretation, 1-22 / Identify and summarize 3 main points

Research Assignment: (1 to 2 pages) Pick any chapter of the Bible, identify 5 important observations, explain why they are important and how they contribute to the interpretation of the passage, and identify the primary application and at least one secondary application.

Module 4 – Dealing With Languages and Translations

Reading Assignment and Accountability: Classical Evangelical Hermeneutics, 1-31 / Identify and summarize 3 main points

Research Assignment: (1 to 2 pages) Identify 5 important words in your chapter, and using a concordance, find the following on each word: a basic definition, identify the first time the word is used in the Bible, identify the number of times the word is used in the particular book in which your chapter is found, and identify the book of the Bible in which the word appears most frequently.

Module 5 – Introduction to Hermeneutics

1. Spiritualization
2. Allegorical
3. Genre
4. Canonical
5. Complementary
6. Theological
7. Literal Grammatical-Historical

Reading Assignment and Accountability: Prolegomena, 205-257 / Identify and summarize 3 main points

Research Assignment: (1 to 2 pages) Identify 3 key verses in your chapter, write out the verses in any four different Bible translations, identify any interesting differences you observe, and explain why you think they are significant.

Module 6 – Three Processes in Bible Study, Part 1

1. Exegesis
2. Synthesis
3. Analysis

Reading Assignment and Accountability: Prolegomena, 267-290 / Identify and summarize 3 main points
Research Assignment: (3 double spaced pages) write a brief summary of each of these three processes of Bible Study.

Module 7 – Three Processes in Bible Study, Part 2

1. Exegesis
2. Synthesis
3. Analysis

Reading Assignment and Accountability: Prolegomena, 291-330 / Identify and summarize 3 main points

Research Assignment: (1 to 2 pages): Pick any short book (6 chapters or less) of the Bible and write an outline with major and minor divisions. (You can make a graphic chart if you would like, but are not required to do so)

Module 8 – Introducing Systematic Theology

1. The Doctrine of God
 - a. Theology Proper
 - b. Christology
 - c. Pneumatology
2. Bibliology
3. Angelology
4. Anthropology
5. Hamartiology
6. Soteriology
7. Israelology
8. Ecclesiology
9. Eschatology

Reading Assignment and Accountability: Prolegomena, 331-342 / Identify and summarize 3 main points

Research Assignment: (1 to 2 pages): Write a summary of the theme of the book, as derived from your outline, summarize how each chapter contributes to the overall theme, and list at least 3 key verses in the book that contribute to the theme

Module 9 – Applying the Principles to Specific Passages

Reading Assignment and Accountability: Protestant Biblical Interpretation, 163-183 / Identify and summarize 3 main points

Research Assignment #1: (1-2 pages) write a brief definition and summary of each category of systematic theology, referencing at least two major Bible verses pertaining to each one.

Research Assignment #2: (1 page) Write a summary of how this class has helped you, and how you are changing your Bible study habits as a result of this study.

VI. Tyndale General Policies and Procedures**Assignment Format**

All assignments and coursework are to be turned in via student Tyndale email. Students are not required to turn in assignments in hard copy. Students must send any required notes, questions, papers, etc. via email as separate attachments in .doc, docx, or pdf format.

Coursework should be submitted directly to the Professor/Instructor (for Campus and Learning Center students) or to the Advising Professor/Instructor (for Online students). The subject line for all submitted coursework should be formatted as follows to ensure receipt of the material:

<i>Campus Students:</i>	Professor Name, Class # & Name, Student Name, Assignment Title (e.g.: C, Johnson, BIBL2301 Hermeneutics, Smith, Paper#1)
<i>Learning Center Students:</i>	LC Location, Campus Prof. Name, Class # & Name, Student Name (e.g.: Mason, Johnson, BIBL2301 Hermeneutics, Smith)
<i>Online Students:</i>	Online Prof. Name, Class # & Name, Student Name, Assignment Title (e.g.: O, Johnson, BIBL2301 Hermeneutics, Smith, Paper#1)

Electronically submitted coursework will be returned along with a final grade via email after the course has been graded.

Assignment Due Dates

Campus/Learning Center students will submit all assignments according to the schedule as outlined in the syllabus. Final assignments are to be submitted no later than the last class period of the semester.

Online students will submit all assignments at their own pace, but must maintain interaction with Advising Professor/Instructor throughout the duration of the course.

Writing Guidelines

All research papers and theses are to follow Turabian guidelines as found in Kate L. Turabian *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations 7th Ed.* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007). All students are required to purchase a copy of *A Manual for Writers* to ensure the proper format. All work is to follow these guidelines:

1. Font & Font Size: Times New Roman, 12 point
2. Double space
3. 1-inch margins (File – Page Setup – Margins)
4. Indent paragraphs .5 inch (Format– Paragraph – Indent left)
5. Page numbers – lower center or upper right –beginning with the first page of text, but not on title page; Arabic numbers only (e.g., 1, 2; not Roman numerals); no other header or footer
6. Title page; then title again on page one (for formal papers)
7. In essay-type papers, ALWAYS write logically, persuasively, focused on the assigned topic; include a succinct introduction that informs the reader concerning the subject of your paper, and a succinct conclusion that summarizes your main points and expresses your resulting conclusion.
8. Use footnotes rather than endnotes, except in dissertation/thesis, where section endnotes are also acceptable.
9. All work should be proofread, as errors in spelling, grammar, and syntax will reduce assignment grade.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is against Tyndale policy, and any act of plagiarism will result in disciplinary action up to student dismissal from further study at Tyndale. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to quoting materials without proper citing or reference. Cutting and pasting of online and other materials requires proper citing via quotation marks and footnote.

Contact

If you anticipate difficulty in meeting any of these requirements, please contact your Professor (for Campus/Learning Center students) or your Advising Professor/Instructor (Online students) as soon as possible. A complete review of all Tyndale policies and procedures can be found in the [Tyndale Theological Seminary and Biblical Institute Academic Catalog](#).